

Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond

Definition/Purpose

Construct agricultural ponds for water supply for irrigation or livestock watering. Benefits may include water supply, erosion control, flood control, and sediment and nutrient reductions from farm fields.

Policies

1. The pond shall be for agricultural use and includes all associated components to meet the intent of the design.
2. The Preliminary Site Assessment Tool for New Ponds must be completed.
3. The pond must be certified by a professional engineer or an individual with appropriate job approval authority.
4. The pond must be designed to the references below based on its hazard classification:
 - a. For excavated ponds in which the depth of water is less than 3 feet at the auxiliary spillway elevation, the pond will be designed in accordance with the NRCS Standard 378.
 - b. Low Hazard Classification – All designs must meet either NRCS Standard 378 (Pond) or the NC Dam Safety Law (15A NCAC 02K .0100) regardless of if they fall under the Dam Safety Permitting Requirements. The design components may not be mixed within the two standards.
 - c. Intermediate Hazard Classification – All designs must meet the NC Dam Safety Law (15A NCAC 02K .0100) regardless of if they fall under the Dam Safety Permitting Requirements.
 - d. High Hazard Classification – All designs must meet NC Dam Safety Law (15A NCAC 02K .0100).
5. A method for distributing the water from irrigation ponds must be available.
6. Receipts are required for reimbursement based on 75% of actual cost.
7. Operation and Maintenance Plan is required.
8. Livestock shall be excluded from the pond. Ponds for irrigation only, without animal access, do not require fencing.
9. For fencing to be eligible for cost share assistance, the minimum standard the cooperator shall follow is the NRCS 382 standard for the appropriate type of operation for stream exclusion/interior fencing.
 - a. For livestock operations, the minimum standard the cooperator shall follow is the NRCS 382 standard for stream exclusion/interior fencing with the following exceptions:

1. Corner brace post assembly requirements in curves or turns from 20 degrees -50 degrees. Technical staff with appropriate job approval authority will determine whether or not corner brace assemblies are required in curves or turns from 20 degrees -50 degrees. For turns greater than 50 degrees, corner brace assemblies are required.
 2. Allow the use of existing materials. Installation must be certified by technical staff with appropriate job approval authority that the fencing will meet the contract life (10 years).
 - b. The applicable funding cap for pond construction shall include the cost of cost-shared fencing.
10. Where fencing is required, but not cost-shared the applicant shall not be required to meet the NRCS 382 standard, only to demonstrate that the fencing is adequate to exclude livestock.
 11. Additional water can be used to fill ponds including stormwater runoff, wells, streams and other water resources.
 12. The pond shall not be used as a commercial aquaculture production pond.
 13. In cases where aquaculture production water is being collected NRCS Standard 313 (Waste Storage Facility) shall be used.
 14. Cooperators are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required permits.
 15. Gallons of agricultural water storage increase is required on the contract.
 16. Minimum life of BMP is 10 years.
 17. If an irrigation pond is converted to a livestock pond during the contract maintenance period, fencing is required and is not eligible for cost share assistance.
 18. If the pond is no longer used for agriculture during the maintenance period, the cost share contract shall be considered out of compliance.
 19. The District shall inspect the site annually during the maintenance period.

Specifications

North Carolina NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Code 313 (Waste Storage Facility), Code #378 (Pond), Code #402. (Dam), NC Dam Safety Law (15A NCAC 02K .0100), NRCS Fact Sheet: Preliminary Site Assessment for New Ponds.